



Jim Hartz, left, formerly of the NBC-TV "Today Show" and Marshall Associate Director Dr. Rick Chappell discuss the role that storytellers play in developing the public's understanding of the exploration experience through the media and movies. That topic was the focus of the Tenth Annual Von Braun Exploration Forum, held Friday night at the Von Braun Center. Additional Forum photos are on page 3.

Photo by Emmett Given

Beale Named Procurement Chief

Stephen P. Beale, deputy director of the Procurement Office since 1988, has been named director of that office by Marshall Center Director Dr. Wayne Little.

Beale joined the Marshall Center in 1972 as a cooperative education student. Early on he became involved in the planning and administration of the Marshall Center procurement activities gaining broad experience in all aspects of contract management as unit supervisor and Contracting Officer and later progressed to branch and division level assignments within the procurement office.



Steve Beale

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Officials Stress Awareness Of Safety Reporting System

Editor's note: "Focus on Safety Day" is being observed today at the Marshall Center, with several activities that were previewed in last week's Star. In conjunction with the day's events, the Safety and Mission Assurance Office urges that all employees be familiar with the NASA Safety Reporting System (NSRS).

The NASA Safety Reporting System is a confidential, voluntary, and responsive reporting channel which provides timely notification to NASA safety officials of your safety concerns regarding any NASA program or activity.

Established by the NASA Administrator in 1987 after the Challenger Shuttle mishap, the NSRS has since supported all flights and has been expanded to cover all NASA operations. NSRS is a continuation of NASA's solid commitment to safety and effort to reduce risks in the design, manufacture, and operation of NASA programs, activities, and facilities. It supplements standard safety reporting channels. All NASA and contractor employees are encouraged to initially use the reporting mechanisms available at their work sites. The NSRS is available if no action is taken on the reported concern; an individual is dissatisfied with the action taken; or extenuating circumstances, such as fear of reprisals, prevent an individual from using standard reporting channels.

Any NASA or contractor employee may use the NSRS. Individuals wishing to report a safety concern to the NSRS can document their concerns on an NSRS pre-addressed, postage-paid form. Forms can be obtained at NSRS displays located throughout the center. Any potential risk or hazard to personnel, mission success, or safe operating conditions for any NASA program, activity, or facility should be reported. Timely information about actual or potential problems is of the highest priority.

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Two Weeks into CFC Fund Drive, Center Pledges Exceed \$255,000

Marshall Center employee contributions during the first two weeks of the 1997 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) totaled \$255,965. The average gift is \$193, according to CFC officials.

"The first two weeks of the campaign have shown tremendous strength," said Steve Gaddis, executive chairperson for this year's Marshall CFC committee. "Even though we have about 250 fewer

employees on board than last year, our level of giving matches last year and the gift per person has gone up. This is one more way that shows the kind of wonderful people that make up the Marshall team," he said.

Organizations that have already wrapped up their campaign for the year include: AA01, AB01, AI11, AI31, BC01, BE01, BF01, BF20, BF40, BJ01, CE01,

CM11, CM41, CN21, CO02, DD01, DS01, EB11, EB41, EH01, EH31, EH41, EH51, EJ31, EJ41, EL02, EL21, EM01, EO41, ES91, GP01, JA01, JA02, JA31, JA61, JA81, MG22, MG23, PD01, PP01, PS01, PS02, SA01, SA21, SA24, SA31, SA34, SA41, SA45, SA51, SA52, TA01, TA21, TA31 and TA61.

The CFC campaign will run through Nov.7.



NASA astronauts Bonnie Dunbar and Jim Reilly practice procedures for the Mechanics of Granular Materials experiment, slated to fly aboard Space Shuttle Discovery on the STS-89 mission in mid-January. Through this experiment, researchers are studying the behavior of granular soils under very low confining pressures as experienced in earthquakes or in the storage of grain in silos. The project scientist and co-investigator for the study is Dr. Nicholas C. Costes of the Microgravity Research Program Office and the project manager is Buddy V. Guynes of Space Sciences Lab.

Photo by Dennis Olive

Marshall Awards Contract to SCSC For Institutional Services

Scientific and Commercial Systems Corp. (SCSC), Falls Church, Va., has been awarded a contract by the Marshall Center to provide a variety of support services at the center effective today.

If all options are exercised, the Institutional Services contract could be worth approximately \$66.3 million.

The types of work to be performed under this contract include transportation and special equipment; documentation repository; graphics, publication, and scientific and technical publishing; supply and equipment management; equipment maintenance and repair; mail services; reproduction; food services; and Educator Resource Center support.

The cost-plus-incentive-fee, performance-based contract will be divided into an 11 and 1/2-month base period and four one-year options, which may be exercised at NASA's discretion.

Most of the services to be provided are a continuation of an effort currently being performed under the Institutional Mission Services contract by MSI, A Division of the Bionetics Corporation, Newport News, Va.

Office of Inspector General Implements Changes to Operations

From Marshall Center's Office of Inspector General

There have been recent significant changes in the organization and activities of the NASA Inspector General's office. Understanding the new environment will help all NASA employees and contractors to work more effectively with the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and benefit from the office's efforts.

NASA's Inspector General, Roberta Gross, was appointed to her position in August 1995 and since then has implemented major changes. Through Gross' efforts, the OIG has been reorganized to reflect an Agency orientation that matches the NASA Enterprises and major functions, rather than the previous orientation to individual NASA Centers. Gross also initiated broader, higher-level, Agencywide reviews, as opposed to the previously more-prevalent Center-specific "retrospective" audits. She emphasizes evaluations that are proactive and that focus on current Agency priorities, initiatives, and key projects. Her objective is to influence good planning and management practices from the beginning,

rather than have her organization focus on identifying how operations could have been managed better in hindsight.

There are now four evaluation groups within the NASA OIG to implement the new approach; (1) **Investigations** and (2) **Audits**, both of which existed before, and (3) **Inspections and Assessments (I&A)**, and (4) **Partnerships and Alliances (P&A)**, which are new. The IG's overall objective is to help NASA administer its programs and operations in an economical, efficient, and effective manner and to help NASA protect the integrity of its programs. Supporting this overall objective, the four groups work in the following ways:

Investigations are the most sensitive of the IG's work and are primarily criminal and civil investigations involving procurement fraud and related violations of law and regulations. Many of the investigations result from allegations that are reported from various sources to the IG's confidential HOTLINE, accessed by phone at 1-800-424-9183 or in writing to the NASA Inspector General, Code W, 300 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20546-0001. The Marshall Investigative Manager is Special Agent Randall Cook,

available at Mail Code M-DI, phone number 205-544-0973. The Marshall Center OIG HOTLINE can be accessed by phone at 205-544-9188. Investigators are trained special agents with law enforcement authority. Their work is performed close to the source, is confidential, and is not subject to the "liaison" process and protocols generally observed in the other three groups.

Audits are an integral element of Government accountability. They evaluate the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of NASA programs and operations, including NASA contractors and grantees. Audits identify management vulnerabilities and internal control weaknesses and recommend process improvements.

Inspections and Assessments (I&A) involve program enhancement evaluations of systems, processes, and structures, directed toward enhancing mission success. The I&A group also handles administrative investigations. Other efforts by the group might include fact-finding or analysis of a specific management issue, evaluation of an organizational structure or element in

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Madison City Councilman Ray Stubblefield, left, Faye Dyer of the Madison County Commission, Center Director Wayne Littles and Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer hold copies of a resolution proclaiming "Space Exploration Week." The week was observed Oct. 6-10 in conjunction with the Von Braun Exploration Forum.
Photo by Dennis Keim

Procurement Director

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As Deputy for Procurement, he managed a complete range of procurement activities from small purchases and Small and Minority Business Programs to major system contracts encompassing proposal solicitation and evaluation, negotiations, awards, and contract property management at the Center and associated contractor plants. In 1982, he spent a year at NASA Headquarters under the professional development program and in 1990 he graduated from the Harvard University program for senior executive fellows. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal for his leadership role in implementing the acquisition streamlining process which he received in 1991.



Singer/Songwriter Beth Nielson Chapman performs during the Von Braun Exploration Forum Friday night. Chapman was one of the featured guests during the event.
Photo by Emmett Given

Inspector General

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relation to mission performance, or an inspection of compliance with laws, regulations, or policies.

Partnerships and Alliances (P&A) activities assist the Agency in finding ways to reduce costs by sharing work through partnerships. The P&A group also evaluates existing partnering for effectiveness and improvement and searches for opportunities to advance "best practices."

What CFC Means to Me...



CFC has heightened my awareness of the multitude of ways that I can be of assistance to my fellow man. Through the CFC tours, I have been able to observe how contributions are being utilized, and the results are remarkable!
Rene' Holden, BC01

Safety Day

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Remember, always notify your supervisor of potential safety problems and use standard safety channels first. Do not report classified material, criminal activities (fraud, waste, and abuse should be reported to the NASA Inspector General), or non-safety related information. The pre-addressed, postage-paid NSRS form is available at all NASA facilities and many contractor sites.

NASA Day Set for Nov. 8 at Alabama A&M Football Game

The Equal Opportunity Office is coordinating High School Senior Day/NASA Day at Alabama A&M University. It will be held in conjunction with the A&M vs. Tuskegee football game to be played Nov. 8 at 1:30 p.m. at the A&M Stadium. General admission tickets are \$10 each, student tickets are \$5 each (ages 6-12 years), and children under 6 are free. Tickets may be purchased in the NASA Exchange Office, Building 4752, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For additional information contact Alice Sams at 4-0374 or Willie Love at 4-0088.

Employee Ads

Miscellaneous

- ★ "Spookie the Ghost" Beanie Baby \$40. Call after 5 p.m. 350-2708
- ★ Antique saws fitted as pot and pan racks, \$70 for both; Antique wooden sleds, German, \$35 each. 882-6832
- ★ MacIntosh 7200/75, 1.2MB drive, 54 MB RAM, 512 cache, 4 x CD-ROM, 28.8 modem, no monitor or keyboard, software. 881-5389
- ★ London Fog men's jacket, size 38 regular, \$25. 306-0365
- ★ G.E. heavy duty washer and dryer \$150; small G.E. microwave \$40. Leave message. 828-2466
- ★ Sofa, beige, loose back cushions \$125; Bentwood rockers maple and walnut stain \$25 each. 883-2757
- ★ Frigidaire clothes washer \$85; Sears Kenmore dishwasher \$75. 881-6040
- ★ Four B.F. Goodrich trail TA tires, 30x9.5-15 \$40 firm; 1960's teak china cabinet by Lane \$125. 350-7461
- ★ Maytag dryer, gas powered, timer needs work. 931-4418
- ★ Ashley fireplace insert, auto thermostat, blower. No glass in doors \$150. 883-5168
- ★ Priscilla curtains, cream/country and cream/mauve, various sizes \$15 to \$25 ea. 306-0365
- ★ Golf clubs, Lynx master irons 2-8, PW, new trips \$85. 350-7461
- ★ AMD 486DX4-100 MB with 16 meg memory, 3PCI/4ISA \$125 o.b.o. 351-6806

Vehicles

- ★ 1991 Nissan Sentra, 100K miles, air, PS, PB, tape, cruise, 35mpg \$4,200. 882-1833
- ★ 1986 Porsche 944, black, 5-speed, PW/PS, PWR sunroof, A/C, cruise \$6,100. 420-5632
- ★ 1965 Cessna 172 airplane, reg no. N8234U. 837-9373
- ★ 1983 Chevrolet conversion van \$3,400 o.b.o. 881-6040
- ★ 1991 Toyota Supra, turbo targatop, new tires, 83K miles \$11,900. 721-1303
- ★ 1992 Coleman Sedona camper, stored in garage \$1,750 o.b.o. 883-9020
- ★ 1996 Dodge Caravan, luggage rack, back seat, left and right sides, sliding doors, child locks \$13,000. 830-8339
- ★ 1987 Chevy Blazer S10 Tahoe, automatic, all power \$4,100. 880-7204
- ★ 36 ft. Gibson house boat with 260 Mercruiser engine \$16,000. Located at Ditto Landing. 461-0190

- ★ 1990 Ford F-150 truck white Michelin at tires low miles \$8,900. 837-6246
- ★ 1991 Cadillac Sedan Deville white w/blue leather, gold package. 852-6952
- ★ 1970 One ton Ford truck, 10 ft. flat bed, overhauled driveline \$2,700. 837-0085

Wanted

- ☛ Two tickets to the Elton John concert in Birmingham, AL, on Nov. 14. 891-2564
- ☛ Two football tickets for Auburn vs. Mississippi State, Nov 1. 355-1353

Found

- ☛ Key found laying on top of cardreader at Bldg. 4200 front door. Call 4-4758 to identify.
- ☛ A pair of eyeglasses found in Bldg. 4200. Call 4-4758 to identify.
- ☛ Disk optimizer disks/manual and other disk found on front steps at Bldg. 4200. Call 4-4758 to identify.
- ☛ Digital tape was left on I&R counter at Bldg. 4312. Call 4-4758 to identify.

Center Announcements

- ☛ **Retired Senior Volunteer Program** — The Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center will participate in "Make a Difference Day" on Oct. 27 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Senior Center.
- ☛ **Toastmasters International** — Toastmasters will meet Oct. 21 at 11:30 a.m. in bldg. 4610 cafeteria conference room.
- ☛ **MARS Dance Club** — The MARS Ballroom Dance Club will offer Foxtrot and Tango lessons (\$8 per person) from 7 to 8 p.m. Nov. 3, 10, 17, and 24. The classes will be held in the Parish Hall of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church at 8020 Whitesburg Drive. These lessons are available to club members and their partners/guests. For more info. call Pat Sage at 544-5427.
- ☛ **Management Operations Office (MOO)** — MOO retirees will meet for breakfast/lunch on Oct. 23 (4th Thursday each month) at the Cracker Barrel in Madison at 10 a.m. In addition to retirees, all present or former MOO employees are welcome. Call 539-0042 if you have any questions.
- ☛ **Blood Drive** — The American Red Cross will be at Bldg. 4752 on Oct. 17 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the monthly Marshall Blood Drive visit. The following schedule should eliminate long waiting periods: A-B, 8 a.m.; C-E, 8:30

a.m.; F-H, 9 a.m.; I-L, 9:30 a.m.; M-P, 10 a.m.; Q-S, 10:30 a.m.; and T-Z, 11 a.m. Marshall employees who serve as blood donors without compensation will be authorized 4 hours of excused absence for this purpose. Contractor personnel must comply with the policy of their respective companies.

- ☛ **NCMA** — The National Contract Management Association will meet on Oct. 23 at the UAH Bevell Center from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Ms. Marlene Cruze. Registration begins at 6:45 a.m. and breakfast will be served at 7 a.m. The cost is \$9 for members and guest. For reservations call 533-3954 by Oct. 20.
- ☛ **AGA** — The Association of Government Accountants will hold its monthly meeting on Oct. 16 at 11:15 a.m. at the Marriott at the Space and Rocket Center. The guest speaker is William Morehead, Mississippi State Hospital and AGA Regional Vice President. Morehead's topic will be "Ethics, Morality, Trust, and Government." For reservations, please contact Sandra Julian at 876-2300
- ☛ **Stop Abuse** — Aware of waste, fraud or abuse? Telephonically contact the MSFC Office of Inspector General at 544-9188 or send complaints to Mail Stop M-DI. Confidentiality will be maintained.
- ☛ **AIAA** — The American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics will sponsor its 3rd Annual Great Paper Airplane Contest at Marshall on Oct. 17. The contest will run from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Bldg. 4752. The contest is free and open to the public. Carolyn Griner, deputy director of Marshall and Dr. Frank Six, division chief of physics and astronomy of Marshall will be two of the special guest judges. For more information contact Paul Luz at 4-0512.

Job Opportunities

CPP 98-5-CP, Financial Program Specialist, GS-507-7, (4 vacancies), promotion potential is to GS-12. Office of Chief Financial Officer. Closes October 20.

CPP 98-3-MB, IFMP Training Program Coordinator, GS-301-12/13, with promotion potential to GS-13. Human Resources and Administrative Support Office. Closes October 24.

CPP 98-4-MB, IFMP Training Program Manager, GS-301-14, Human Resources and Administrative Support Office. Closes October 24.

MARSHALL STAR

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